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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,725	01/30/2004	Hidchiko Ogawa	P24509	6078

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EXAMINER

LEE, TOMMY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,725

Applicant(s)

OGAWA, HIDEHIKO

Examiner

Thomas D. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/461,402.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/04, 7/6/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: IDS filed 3/3/05.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/461,402, filed on December 15, 1999.

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-44 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 and 29-34 of copending Application No. 10/767,615 in view of U.S. Patent 5,798,845 (Baek).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the only difference between the pending claims 1-15 and 29-34 of this application and corresponding claims of the copending application is that a memory in this application is configured to store default information, while the memory in the copending application is configured to store information regarding an identification of at least one user of the image data communication apparatus. In this application, default information is set into the mail message of an e-mail to which image data is attached when the information regarding the identification of the user is not input by the panel section. However, it is well known in the art that a memory that stores user identification numbers for the transmission of image data can also store a default number, and that this default number can be attached to image information to be transmitted to a receiver when a user identification number is not entered. Baek discloses this limitation (column 7, lines 44-67 (the default number is the automatic dialing number "FF")). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that by providing a default number, a user may be able to transmit image data, either on behalf of himself or herself, or on behalf of the company for which he or she works, and that a person receiving the image data can positively identify the company sending the image data even if a user at the transmitting end fails to enter identification information. Furthermore, with regard to claims 21-26 and 37-42 of this application, the transmitter (claims 21, 23 and 25) and corresponding transmitting step (claims 37, 39 and 41) reads on lines 2-4 of claims 1, 6 and 11, 29, 31 and 33 in the copending application. Moreover, with regard to claims 16-20, 27, 28, 35, 36, 43 and 44 of this application, the

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recitation of opening of the attached image data not being required is omitted, and the remaining limitations either read on the claims of the copending application, or would have been obvious in view of Baek, as set forth above.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-20, 27, 28, 35, 36, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,742,769 (Lee) in view of Baek.

Regarding claims 16-20, Lee discloses an image data communication apparatus connected to an image data source and to a network, and transmitting an e-mail to a receiving apparatus via the network, the e-mail including a mail from command and a mail message (column 7, lines 26-39), the image data communication apparatus comprising: a panel section configured to input information regarding an identification of a user and a mail address of a user of the image data communication apparatus (in order to log in, a user enters the e-mail address and password for authentication (column 5, lines 7-15)); and a controller being configured to set the information regarding the identification of the user and the mail address of the user, input by the panel section, into the mail message of the e-mail to which the image data is attached when the information regarding the identification of the user and the mail address of the

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user are input by the panel section (user's e-mail address copied into "reply-to" field (column 7, lines 36-40), enabling reply from the receiving apparatus (column 7, lines 51-59)). The panel section comprises a personal computer connected to the image data communication apparatus and displaying an HTML document for storing the mail message of the user in the memory (PENTIUM®-based personal computer running on a 32-bit operating system such as Windows NT (column 3, lines 23-28)

Lee does not disclose the transmission of image data attached to the e-mail. However, it is well known in the art that image data may be transmitted as an attachment to an e-mail message. It is common practice to transmit a document or a picture via e-mail by scanning the document or picture and attaching it to the e-mail, and in such a case the attached document is inherently converted into a format for e-mail transmission. By providing for the transmission of scanned image data as an attachment, a greater variety of image data can be transmitted for immediate reception at the receiving apparatus, and thus it would have been obvious to modify the teaching of Lee by providing a scanner for inputting image data so that the image data may be transmitted as an attachment to an e-mail message, as is well known in the art.

Lee does not disclose a memory configured to store a default information and a default mail address, or the controller configured to set the default information and the default mail address into the mail message of the e-mail to which the image data is attached when the information regarding the identification of the user and the mail address of the user are not input by the panel section. As mentioned above, it is well known in the art that a memory that stores user identification numbers for the

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transmission of image data can also store a default number, and that this default number can be attached to image information to be transmitted to a receiver when a user identification number is not entered. Baek discloses this limitation (column 7, lines 44-67 (the default number is the automatic dialing number "FF")). Once again, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that by providing a default number, a user may be able to transmit image data, either on behalf of himself or herself, or on behalf of the company for which he or she works, and that a person receiving the image data can positively identify the company sending the image data even if a user at the transmitting end fails to enter identification information, and thus it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Lee by providing a memory configured to store default information, and a controller configured to set the default information, as disclosed in Baek.

Regarding claims 27 and 28, Lee further discloses a transmitter configured to transmit an e-mail to a receiving apparatus via the network, the e-mail including a mail from command and a mail message (column 7, lines 26-35).

Claims 35, 36, 43 and 44 are method claims corresponding to above-rejected apparatus claims 16, 20, 27 and 28, respectively. The method steps are either disclosed in Lee, or would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Baek, as set forth above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas D. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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7436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



tdl
December 8, 2005

THOMAS D. LEE
PATENT EXAMINER